THE NATIONAL HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

for

The Right Reverend Benjamin Radell Stewart
Church of God in Christ
Bishop, Emeritus
First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Northern California

Thursday, the seventh of September
At Noon
Two Thousand
Anno Domini

Ephesians Church of God in Christ
San Francisco, California

His Grace, THE MOST REVEREND CHANDLER DAVID OWENS
Church of God in Christ
Presiding Bishop
Chief Officiant

"SERVANT OF GOD, WELL DONE!"

BISHOP BENJAMIN RADELL STEWART

Yours was a useful life, you wrought well while here
You were generous with your time, as you toiled from year to year.
Many lives you did touch, always doing your part;
A God to serve when called upon, with a kind and humble heart.
Your life was dedicated to things of God both noble and true;
It was not task for you to work, there was nothing you couldn't do.
You will never be forgotten, though you've passed away;
The things you left behind will live on each day.
We don't want to give you up, but sleep on, take your rest;
The act of God we dare not question, for He alone knows best.

QUIET MOMENTS.....*The Organist*

THE PROCESSIONAL
The Adjutant General
**THE PRESIDING BISHOP*
The Assistant Presiding Bishops
The General Board
The Bishops
The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders
The Visiting Clergy
The Family

The Sealing of the Bier

THE CALL TO WORSHIP.....*The Bishop*

THE HYMN OF COMFORT.....*The Choir and Congregation*
"We'll Understand It Better By and By"

***THE INVOCATION**.....*The Bishop*

THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 40:28-31

THE CHORAL RESPONSE.....*The Choir*
"And In Jesus, I'm Safe Evermore"

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - I Thessalonians 4:13-18

***THE STATEMENT OF FAITH**.....*The Bishop*

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING THE BIBLE
We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written Word of God.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING GOD
We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING THE CHURCH
We believe in the Blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING SIN
We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING SALVATION
We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING CHRIST
We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing prayer.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING THE HOLY GHOST
We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4 is given to believers who ask for it.

The Leader: OUR BELIEF CONCERNING SANCTIFICATION
We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world.

AMEN

THE SELECTION.....*The Northern California First Jurisdictional Choir*

THE TRIBUTES (3 Minutes)
The Board of Bishops.....*The Bishop L. T. Walker*
Chairman
The General Assembly.....*The Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr.*
Vice-Chairman
The General Church.....*The Bishop W. W Hamilton*
General Secretary
The General Board.....*The Bishop P. A. Brooks*
Secretary

THE SELECTION.....*The Northern California First Jurisdictional Choir*

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

THE SERMONIC HYMN.....*The Northern California First Jurisdictional Choir*
"Amazing Grace"

THE EULOGY.....*The Most Reverend Chandler David Owens*
Church of God in Christ
Presiding Bishop

***THE RECESSIONAL**

Note: (*) Where indicated, the congregation will please stand

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Assisting Officiants
Members of the General Board

The Bishop J. Neaul Haynes
First Assistant Presiding Bishop
The Bishop Ozro Thurston Jones, Jr.
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop
The Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks
Secretary
The Bishop Samuel L. Green
Assistant Secretary
The Bishop LeRoy Anderson
The Bishop Charles Edward Blake
The Bishop Levi E. Willis, Sr.
The Bishop Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush
The Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson
The Bishop Willie Lee Porter
The Bishop H. Jenkins Bell

The Entombment
Friday , September 8, 2000
Oakland, California

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:
Bayview Mortuary
San Francisco, California

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
The Board of Bishops
Church of God in Christ

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS
Superintendents, Pastors, and Elders
Northern California First Jurisdiction

Obituary

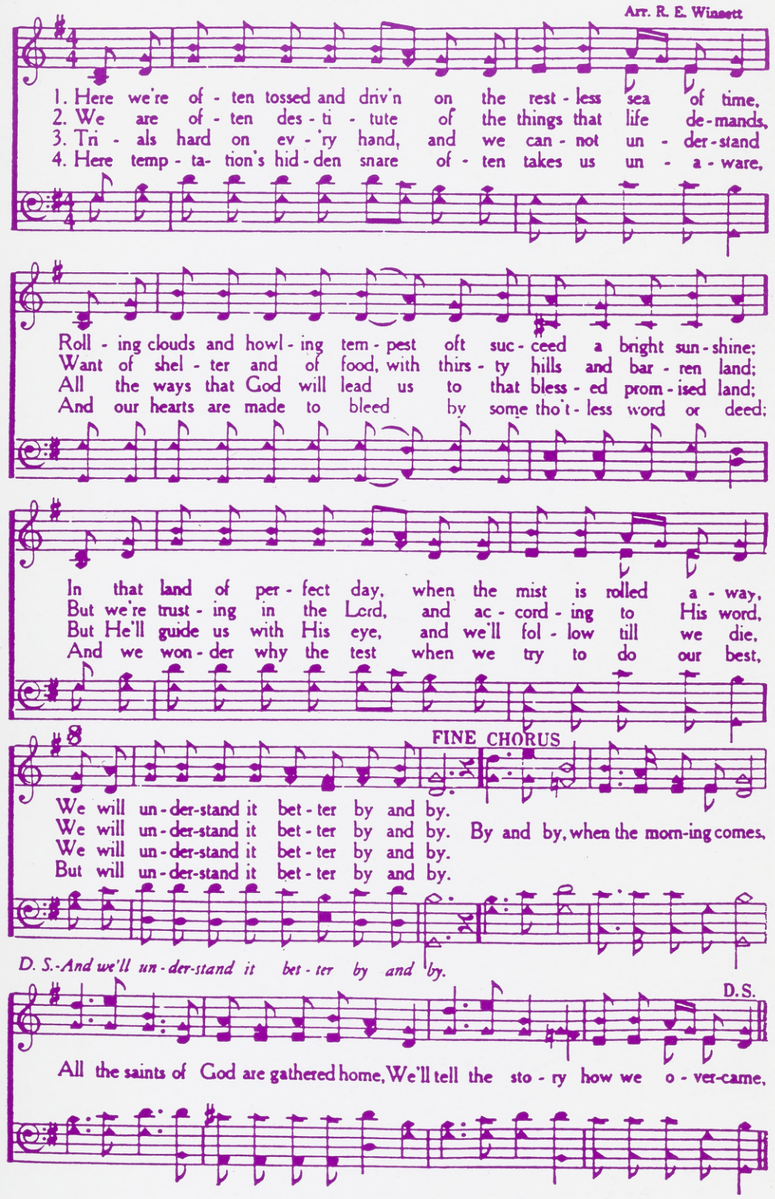
BISHOP BENJAMIN RADELL STEWART was born February 18, 1922 in Waco, Texas to the late Bishop E.B. and Alberta Stewart. He was the oldest of eight children. In 1926 the Stewart family moved to California where Bishop Stewart completed his public education as a graduate of Jefferson High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He was an outstanding high school track and field athlete and trombonist in the school band. His musical skills were joyously offered up in praise and glory to God throughout his life. He inspired many youth of the Church of God in Christ in their pursuit of musical excellence.

Bishop Stewart benefitted from and was blessed through parents who loved God and dedicated their lives and the lives of their children to the will and purpose of God. He was surrounded and inspired early in life by outstanding examples of gospel preachers, church administrators and dedicated workers in the Church of God in Christ. His maternal uncle, the late Bishop E.M. Wilson, served as California's second Church of God in Christ Bishop, following the late Bishop E.R. Driver. His father, the late Bishop E.B. Stewart, was appointed as the first Bishop of Northern California by the late Bishop C.H. Mason, founder of the Church of God in Christ.

At an early age Bishop Stewart accepted the Lord as his personal Savior and he was called to the ministry at the age of fifteen years old. He was licensed to preach by his father and pastor, and ordained by the late Bishop S.M. Crouch. Under the pastorate and tutelage of his father his ministry developed and he was prepared to serve well in various capacities in church and community, including as a dynamic and inspirational junior pastor of his local church. After he completed two years of study at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Ill, Bishop Stewart served his country honorably in the United States Army, as a conscientious objector, in the Philippines. During his tour of military duty, Bishop Stewart met and influenced a number of fellow soldiers to relocate to California from various states of the country. Their relocation was a vital source of growth of the Church of God in Christ in California for a considerable period after the Second World War.

In 1948 Bishop Stewart, his wife, the late missionary Jairlean Stewart and young son, Benny, moved from Los Angeles to San Francisco where he assumed the leadership of a small mission at 1745 O'Ferrall. Under his leadership the mission grew from two members to some seventy members within three years. Although some forty members of the struggling mission left during the mission's "Great Effort" rally to expand the work of the Lord through the mission, Bishop Stewart and his wife led some thirty members in a victorious march to their newly purchased church-Jerusalem Church of God in Christ at 1819 Sutter Street in 1951, where Bishop Stewart received his first pastoral appointment during the same year. Under the pastorate of Bishop Stewart, the Jerusalem Church of God in Christ provided a great Holy Ghost directed ministry throughout the city and county of San Francisco for many years. Bishop Stewart served as pastor in several locations in San Francisco. In 1966, under the leading of the Holy Ghost, Bishop Stewart began the present ministry at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, 1915 McAllister St, San Francisco. Pentecostal Temple served as the mother church of Northern California First Jurisdiction for many years. Bishop Stewart served in various district, state and national official capacities of the Church of God in Christ beginning in 1951, when he was appointed president of the youth department of Northern California First Jurisdiction. In 1960 Bishop Stewart was appointed District Superintendent in San Francisco. In 1964 he was appointed Assistant Bishop to his father and in 1969, after the death of his father, he was the first son to succeed his father as Bishop in the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Stewart was an astute administrator and very innovative leader who instituted many programs and services that were viewed unique and useful in the National Church. Such programs included The Pastors Bonus and the Holy Communion during both the Workers Meeting and Holy Convocation. He was also the creator of the first adjutants corps. On three different occasions, he exemplified the spirit of humility in submitting to the National Church's desire to divide his jurisdiction. At the National level he served as secretary to the Board of Bishops. He leaves to celebrate his homegoing Bro. Benjamin Radell Stewart III and wife Sis. Ollie Stewart (son and wife), Missionary Aljarita Juanita Stewart (daughter), Rhayeka Chansuie Stewart and Benjamin Kwame Malik Stewart (grandchildren), Mr. James Stewart, Mr. Wilburt Stewart, Elder Arthur Stewart (brothers), Ms. Olivia Mason, Sis. Barbara Powell (sisters), Sister Charlene Stewart (sister-in-law), Mother Clara Stewart Robinson (aunt), a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends including the Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ Family and The Northern California First Jurisdiction.

We'll Understand It Better By and By


Arr. R. E. Winsett
1. Here we're of - ten tossed and driv'n on the rest - less sea of time,
2. We are of - ten des - ti - tute of the things that life de-mands,
3. Tri - als hard on ev - 'ry hand, and we can - not un - der-stand
4. Here temp - ta- tion's hid - den snare of - ten takes us un - a - ware,
Roll - ing clouds and howl - ing tem - pest oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine;
Want of shel - ter and of food, with thirs - ty hills and bar - ren land;
All the ways that God will lead us to that bless - ed prom - ised land;
And our hearts are made to bleed by some tho't - less word or deed;
In that land of per - fect day, when the mist is rolled a - way,
But we're trust - ing in the Lord, and ac - cord - ing to His word,
But He'll guide us with His eye, and we'll fol - low till we die,
And we won - der why the test when we try to do our best,
FINE CHORUS
We will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
We will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by. By and by, when the morn-ing comes,
We will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
But will un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
D. S.-And we'll un - der-stand it bet - ter by and by.
D.S.
All the saints of God are gathered home, We'll tell the sto - ry how we o - ver-came,

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Family of the late Bishop Benjamin Radell Stewart wishes to express their thanks for every act of kindness expressed during their time of loss.

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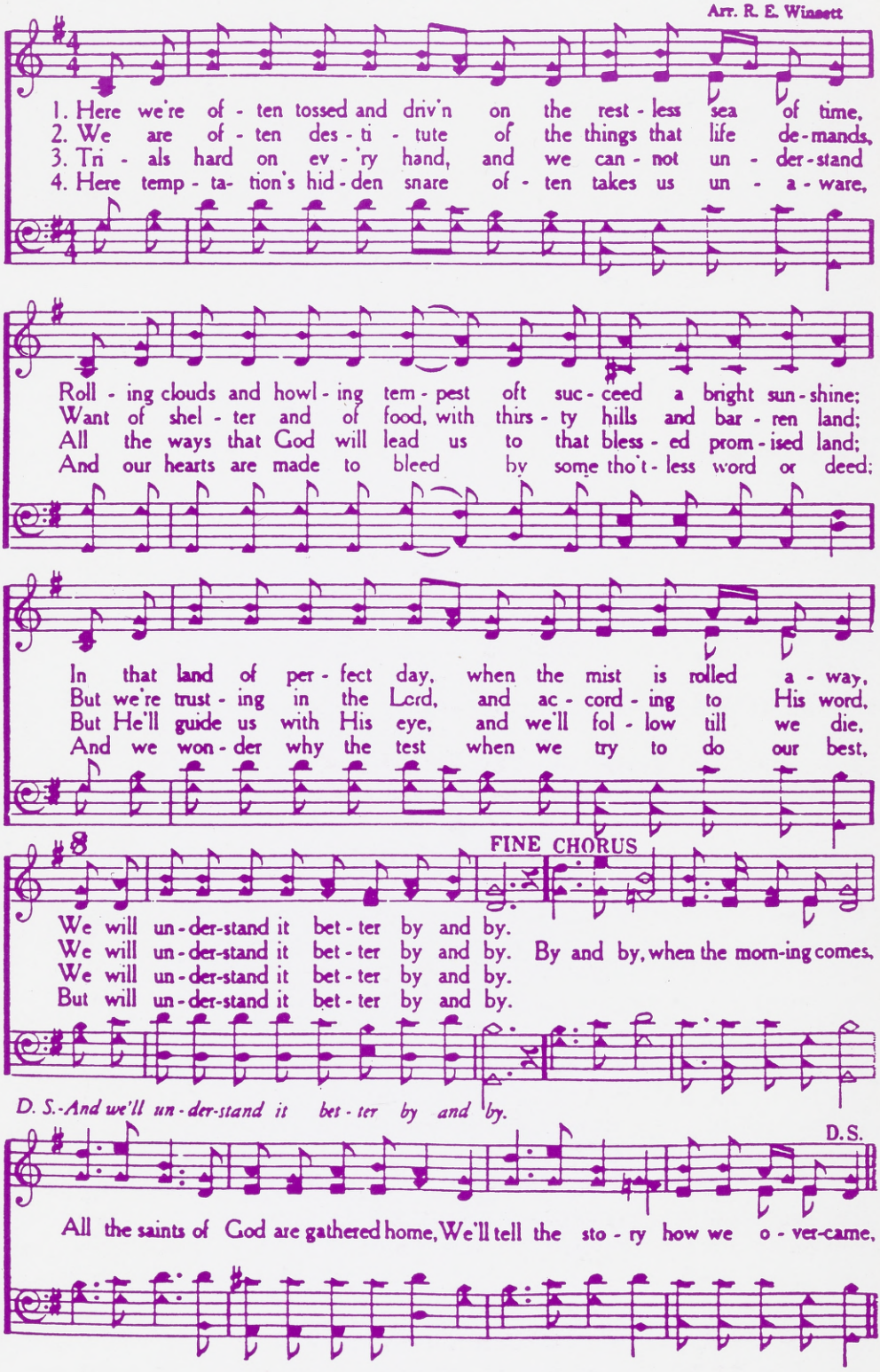
1. Here we're of - ten tossed and driv'n on the rest - less sea of time,
2. We are of - ten des - ti - tute of the things that life de-mands,
3. Tri - als hard on ev - 'ry hand, and we can - not un - der-stand
4. Here temp - ta- tion's hid - den snare of - ten takes us un - a - ware,
Roll - ing clouds and howl - ing tem - pest oft suc - ceed a bright sun - shine;
Want of shel - ter and of food, with thirs - ty hills and bar - ren land;
All the ways that God will lead us to that bless - ed prom - ised land;
And our hearts are made to bleed by some tho't - less word or deed;
In that land of per - fect day, when the mist is rolled a - way,
But we're trust - ing in the Lord, and ac - cord - ing to His word,
But He'll guide us with His eye, and we'll fol - low till we die,
And we won - der why the test when we try to do our best,
FINE CHORUS
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